

An open balustrade will extend round the top of the building between the gables and towers, and the roof will be asphalted for the purpose of forming a promenade for the sailors.

Mr. Cunningham is the architect, Messrs. S. and J. Blakley, the builders.

Calculating folks have found out that twice as much money as the building will cost has been spent in laying the first stone.

IS THE TOWER OF YORK MINSTER SAFE?

A rumour of certain cracks in the great tower reached us a short time since, but did not seem to have much weight. The *Athenæum*, however, reports a conversation at a general meeting of the Archaeological Institute, which confirms it.

Mr. Browne, the historian of the Minster, began by making some remarks on the structure of the centre tower; which he contended was of Norman workmanship,—though the characteristics of its style were of a much later date. He had made, he said, a very careful examination of the tower, in every accessible part; and could distinctly trace many remains of Norman masonry,—particularly in the north-west angle. If John le Romayne had erected the tower anew from the foundation, we should never have had so much Norman work left as we now have. It is not correct to give the honour of erecting the tower to John le Romayne. He could observe Norman work from the very foundation, through the clerestory, up to the very battlements. All that John le Romayne did was to re-case the tower; and this Norman work, cased by Romayne, stands, he was sorry to observe, on very rotten foundations. You may take as much away of it as you like with your fingers—you may thrust a crowbar into it over the head with as much ease as you would into a tub of butter. He was sorry to observe, moreover, that the cracks in the Great Tower were increasing very rapidly. Something should be done, and at once, to insure the stability of the fabric. The removal of the 6,000 gallons of water from the tower would lessen the pressure very considerably. He knew very well why the water was placed there—but “let us watch our cathedral carefully, and we shall have no further need of such a pressure on its top.”

The Dean of Hereford confirmed the statement of Mr. Browne. The cracks were there, it was true; and he was assured that they were increasing. Mr. Browne had anticipated him, for it had certainly been his intention to have represented the state of the tower to the dean and chapter before he left York. He had observed similar cracks in the tower of Hereford Cathedral; and every architect was aware of the great repairs in progress in that cathedral. He had tested the cracks at Hereford by filling them up with plaster.

The Marquis of Northampton said:—He was sure that the proper authorities would take some steps to arrest the danger; and it would be prudent to consider whether the tower—hitherto thought, and he believed, with reason, too insecure to carry pinnacles—should be made to bear so great a weight of water, at a time when its very foundations were in danger.

Mr. W. Vernon Harcourt wished to assure the gentlemen who were present that the guardianship of the cathedral had not been intrusted to careless and indifferent persons. The cathedral had never been in such thorough repair as it was at this very time. This was a new discovery of Mr. Browne. He had never heard of it before—the master masons had never heard of it—and the careful survey made by Mr. Sidney Smirke, a few years back, contradicted it altogether.

Professor Willis remarked that Mr. Browne's apprehensions were utterly groundless; that these settlements had existed for hundreds of years; and that if the cracks referred to were of any consequence, then all our cathedrals—Ely especially—were in the utmost danger. But he had no such fears. Nor was the test of the plaster of any great importance; for plaster generally contracted as it dried. It was a test, however, not to be overlooked. Nothing but what was good could result from a conversation like this.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

NEAR the Slough Station, on the Great Western Line of Railway, a building for the temporary detention of prisoners apprehended in the Stoke and Eton divisions of the county is about to be erected according to plans prepared by the county surveyor and approved of by the magistrates.—The new church at Bednall, Staffordshire, was consecrated by the Bishop of Lichfield the week before last.—A new theatre is about to be erected at Leamington.—On the 24th ult., the new church in the extra-parochial district of the Deeping Fen, Lincolnshire, was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln.—The new church at Zeals, in the parish of Mere, is rapidly advancing to completion; it is in the decorated style.—The new and extensive works in progress at the Bristol docks, were suddenly destroyed on the 8th instant by the flooding of the Avon and Frome, mingled with a sudden and unusual rush of the tide, which many for the moment believed to be the result of an earthquake. The damage to the works (which have been in constant progress for several months, for the admission of shipping of the largest size, and the cost of which is estimated at 50,000*l.* or 60,000*l.*), is thought to amount to at least 5,000*l.*—Twenty-five houses in the vicinity of Aberayron, and Talsarn, Cardiganshire, have been destroyed and some lives lost about the same time by similar floods; and four bridges also, between Aberayron and Aberystwith, have been demolished.

The new market at Carmarthen was opened last week. Mr. F. E. H. Fowler is the architect.—The same architect is about to erect in the same place, a new Assembly Room, and to re-erect a monument to Sir Thomas Picton.—The first stone of the new church at Motcombe, near Shaftesbury, was laid on Monday, August 3rd, by Lord Robert Grosvenor. The style of the building is perpendicular Gothic; it consists of nave, aisles, chancel, west tower, and south porch, and accommodates about 460 persons. All the roofs are open, and the seats are uniform. Mr. G. Alexander is the architect, and Mr. Maskell, of Motcombe, the builder.—A prize of 50*l.* has been offered by Mr. J. H. H. Foley, through the Institute of Popular Science at Stourbridge, for the best practicable plan of improving that town by joint-stock companies.—At Sheffield, lately, the entire slate-work of two houses suddenly fell into the street. Its insufficiency had previously determined its removal at any rate.—On Tuesday week Lund Church was re-opened, after having undergone a thorough repair and cleansing.—The foundation-stone of the new church at Hixen, in the parish of Stowe, was laid on the 18th ult. by the Marchioness of Lothian.—The free church of Glass, Strathbogie, was opened on the 16th ult.—It is proposed to erect a Presbyterian college at Belfast. Public baths and washhouses are in course of erection there.—A church for seamen is about to be erected at Douglas, Isle of Man, partly out of the materials of a bulk lent by the Admiralty, and hitherto used as a church for seamen.—The roof of the Royal Exchange at Dublin was set fire to on the 4th current, by the negligence of some plumbers employed on it. Considerable damage was done to the roof and the lecture-room of the Mechanics' Institute, and much fear and excitement prevailed lest the fire should reach the vaults of the Exchange, which are stored with several thousand hogsheads of whisky in bond, and run along beneath the houses in Parliament-street, Dame-street, and Lower Castle Yard. It is really disgraceful to think how frequently the most valuable property is placed in jeopardy or destroyed by negligence of this same description.

BATH BRICKS.—It is singular that the only known substance from which these bricks can be made, is a sludge or mud, deposited by the river Parrot, and that of such deposits it is only that within a mile above and a mile below the town of Bridgewater that will do. They are used, as every one knows, for cleaning knives, &c.

PALM WOOD.—The Board of Customs, considering that palm wood comes under the description of furniture wood, have decided that it is to be admitted duty free.

WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

ON Friday, the 7th inst., a court was held; Mr. Leslie in the chair. The cash balance at the bankers appeared to be 15,276*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*

A great number of letters from all parts of the Westminster jurisdiction were read, complaining of the nuisances to the inhabitants arising from inefficient drainage, and the foul emanations from the sewers.

On the application of various individuals, liberty was granted for the building of 1,747 feet of new sewers and 101 house drains.

A motion, by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Le Breton, “That all works estimated at not exceeding 200*l.* be in future done by the workmen in the employment of the commissioners, without advertising for contractors to do the same, notwithstanding any rule or bye-law to the contrary, provided the surveyor certify that the work to be done is of a pressing nature,” was negatived by 13 to 3.

The report of the solicitors as to the two trials against the sureties of Mr. Bird, the contractor, for the failure of the large sewer in Gloucester-road, Paddington, was then considered; and Mr. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Le Breton, moved, “That the advice of the counsel employed by this court in the case of Donaldson v. Smith be adopted, and that they be instructed to move for a new trial therein.” Upon which an amendment was moved by Mr. John White, seconded by Mr. Godrich, “That it is not advisable that any further proceedings be taken in the matter.” Amendment carried by 11 to 7. The court then appointed Wm. Conquest to be drawing clerk, at 100*l.* per annum; salary to commence from 25th of March last.

Mr. Chalmers moved and Mr. Le Breton seconded a motion, “To confirm the order of court of the 24th July last, respecting Mr. Whitechurch's applications, and to sanction the expenditure therein recommended.”

Upon putting which, the chairman said, that he felt it his duty to declare his opinion, that the proposed expenditure, however beneficial to the building speculation in question, was an illegal application of the sewers' rate. Carried by 17 to 1.

The surveyor reported two breaches of sewers, one crossing Regent-street at Major Foubert's place, and one in Conduit-street, in the examination of which he had discovered that a very large quantity of sewage from the eastern division of sewers was, through this channel, carried into the western division, and ultimately into the King's Scholar's Pond Sewer. The reparations were proceeding, and the court approved thereof, and required that after the breaches were completely secured, the surveyor should report fully on the subject.

A motion was made by Mr. T. L. Donaldson, seconded by Mr. Baylis, “That a precept be now signed to the Sheriff of Middlesex, to call out a jury to inquire into such things as shall be given them in charge, respecting the sewage of Monmouth-road, Paddington, for Tuesday, the 18th inst., at 10 o'clock A.M.” Carried, and the precept signed.

HEAVITREE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL. NEAR EXETER.

THIS new or rather re-erected parish church, was consecrated on Saturday week by the Bishop of the diocese, supported by a strong corps of clergy. The architect is Mr. Mackintosh, the designer of several of the diocesan churches of Exeter. The contractor for the whole of the works was Mr. John Kenahole, of Heavitree, by whom Mr. Simon Rowe, of Saint Sidwells, was engaged to execute the freestone work. The church has been built by subscription, assisted by grants to the amount of 500*l.* from the Church Building Societies. The amount of accommodation it affords is sittings for 1,220 persons, of which number 513 are free and unappropriated. It is one of the largest churches in the county.

We extract the following abbreviated description of it from the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*:

The style is that of the 15th century, and all the peculiar characteristics of the ancient church have been carefully maintained and restored. The dimensions internally are as follows:—Chancel, 25 feet by 16 feet; nave, 36 feet by 22 feet; north and south aisles each, 34 feet by 13 feet 6 inches, with a southern